GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2211
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2005
METHANE IN ABANDONED COAL MINES
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge quantity of unexplored methane gas in abandoned coal mines in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government had conducted any technical and economic feasibility study in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has explored the possibilities of generating power by utilizing surplus methane in abandoned coal mines; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (c):- Methane is known to occur in abandoned coal mines ; however, because unstowed underground mines having large spatial extant are limited in nature, a systematic assessment of abandoned mine methane to establish the recoverable resource base, would first have to be undertaken. This falls in the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Coal.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise, in view of (d) above.